United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/898
28 May 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General meets with Heads of State of Morocco, Algeria; arrives in Lisbon to witness signing of Angola accords, which he calls "a great success of Portuguese diplomacy".

- Secretary-General appeals to all sides in Ethiopian conflict to observe cease-fire; says United Nations system will intensify humanitarian assistance.

- Secretary-General asks former Under-Secretary-General to lead expert team on exploratory mission to investigate reconstruction of Iran as result of damage resulting from Iran-Iraq conflict.

- ILO Director-General says market economy in Eastern Europe should not sacrifice social protection.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar arrived in Lisbon yesterday after having spent the weekend in Morocco and Algeria where he met with King Hassan II of Morocco and with President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria.

In Rabat on Saturday, 25 May, he had a meeting with the King of Morocco during which they exchanged views on a number of international issues, in particular the United Nations operation in Western Sahara, the Middle East question and the aftermath of the Persian Gulf crisis, including the United Nations' role in northern Iraq.

On Sunday, 26 May, before leaving Rabat, the Secretary-General spoke to the press at the airport. In answer to a question regarding the date of the cease-fire in Western Sahara, he said he had sent messages to both parties before leaving New York asking them to suggest a time-frame for the cease-fire. "I think", he said, "that it will occur very soon", adding, when pressed, that he hoped it would happen in June.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Regarding the budget of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the Secretary-General was asked why the operation had initially been estimated at $300 million and subsequently reduced to $180 million. The Secretary-General pointed out that the United Nations was being asked to undertake numerous missions, for example, in Angola, Central America and Cambodia, and that the major donors were pressing the Organization to cut costs.

Keeping in mind the importance of not jeopardizing the credibility of the operation, the Secretary-General said the United Nations had asked for contributions in kind as well as in cash, particularly with regard to logistical and communications equipment. Asked whether he was optimistic, the Secretary-General said he was hopeful and that his goal was to hold the referendum by the end of the year, possibly by the end of November.

The Secretary-General left Rabat on Sunday for the city of Oran, in western Algeria, where he met with the President of Algeria, Mr. Bendjedid. They discussed various international problems of mutual concern, particularly the question of the Near and Middle East. They also reviewed the question of Western Sahara.

Yesterday, 27 May, the Secretary-General went to Lisbon where he is scheduled to witness the signing of the agreement between the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

Upon his arrival at the airport in Lisbon the Secretary-General told the press that he considered the Angola accords "a great success of Portuguese diplomacy". Asked about the future role of the United Nations in Angola, the Secretary-General said the United Nations would strengthen the existing United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) force. However, he said, the Security Council still had to approve any increase in the force's activities, as well as give the green light for the budget.

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Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar has expressed concern over the unfolding events in Ethiopia.

In a statement issued at Headquarters over the weekend, he appealed to all sides to observe an immediate cease-fire in order to enhance the chances of success of a negotiated settlement.

In the meantime, the statement said, the United Nations system would intensify its humanitarian assistance programme with a view to meeting the needs of the people of Ethiopia. The Secretary-General called on all the parties to cooperate with the United Nations in order to facilitate such assistance.

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In a related development, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said today that it was stepping up its operational capacity in Ethiopia, following the recent developments in the country, in order to assist victims of the conflict.

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The Secretary-General has asked former Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim A. Farah to lead a team of experts who will make an exploratory visit to Iran towards the end of May.

The request is made in response to the mandate entrusted to the Secretary-General by Security Council resolution 598 (1987) by which the Council "recognizes the magnitude of the damage inflicted during the conflict between Iran and Iraq and the need for reconstruction efforts, with appropriate international assistance, once the conflict is ended, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to assign a team of experts to study the question and to report back to the Council".

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 23 May, the Secretary-General said it was anticipated that the team would remain in the area for an initial period of two to three weeks.

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The Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Michel Hansenne, said yesterday that the transition to a market-oriented economy in Central and Eastern Europe should be rapid but without sacrificing social protection and representative workers' and employers' institutions.

The Director-General was addressing the opening of an ILO/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) meeting on labour markets, social policy and industrial relations in Eastern Europe.

He said mass unemployment appeared imminent following structural adjustment. That gave added urgency to the development of remedial and preventive measures, and to implementing active labour market policies. He warned that after this July, millions of workers in the Soviet Union were likely to become unemployed. The ILO, he said, was keen to help the transition by promoting democratic institutions, the development of collective bargaining and the pursuit of social consensus.

The two-day meeting at the ILO offices in Geneva is being attended by senior labour economists and other experts from Central and Eastern Europe.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/899
29 May 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Economic and Social Council calls for continued sanctions against South Africa pending evidence of "irreversible change"; seeks urgent humanitarian aid to Somalia.

- Special Commission monitoring destruction of Iraq's weapons returns to New York from first on-site inspection of nuclear facilities in Iraq.

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The Economic and Social Council this morning called on Governments to maintain existing sanctions against South Africa until there was "clear evidence of profound and irreversible change" there. The South African Government was called upon to exercise its responsibility to end the violence in the country.

The Council took that action as it adopted a resolution on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

The Council, acting without a vote on a resolution concerning emergency assistance to Somalia, urged Somalia's national leaders to do their utmost to bring about national reconciliation and to promote peace and stability throughout the country.

The Council also called on the Secretary-General urgently to mobilize international humanitarian assistance for the immediate needs both of displaced persons and refugees still in the country and to dispatch an inter-agency mission there to assess its emergency and medium-term needs.

Also this morning, a draft resolution concerning the "United States economic embargo against Cuba" was circulated in the Council. By that draft, the Council would request the Commission on Human Rights to consider the adverse effects which the embargo and "other aggressive and discriminatory actions taken against" Cuba by the United States have on the enjoyment by the Cuban people of their inalienable human rights. The draft resolution is sponsored by Cuba.

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For information media—not an official record

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Members of the Special Commission and of the Secretariat who took part in the first on-site inspection of nuclear facilities in Iraq last week have returned to New York. A United Nations spokesman said today that the team was currently briefing the Commission's Executive Chairman, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, and other members.

The spokesman went on to say that Ambassador Ekeus planned to leave for Vienna today to meet with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix. He would then travel to Bahrain where the Special Commission was establishing a field office, and afterwards to Baghdad for consultations with Iraqi authorities.

The spokesman said the Commission's five-member working unit on nuclear disarmament was meeting all this week in New York and had been joined by four nuclear-weapons experts from France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union, recruited for this stage of the unit's work. The experts were to advise the Special Commission on materials, items and activities proscribed by Security Council resolution 687 (1991). An IAEA representative was also participating in ongoing discussions.

The spokesman added that plans were under way for a 35-member team of chemical-weapons experts from eight Member States to conduct their first on-site inspection of a chemical weapons facility in Iraq. They were expected to arrive in that country on 9 June.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/900
30 May 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council unanimously extends mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for another period of six months, until 20 November; also unanimously enlarges and prolongs mandate of Angola Verification Mission in light of peace accords.

- Secretary-General, in Lisbon for signing of Angolan accords, holds talks with Prime Minister of Portugal.

- Iraq protests against "unprecedented" Security Council decision to establish Compensation Fund to pay for damages resulting from invasion of Kuwait.

- Secretary-General welcomes request of Democratic People's Republic of Korea to seek United Nations membership.

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The Security Council late this afternoon voted unanimously to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for another period of six months until 20 November.

The Council President, Li Daoyu of China, said in a statement on behalf of members of the Council that "despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syrian sector, the situation in the Middle East as a whole continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached".

The Council then in a second meeting unanimously decided to extend and enlarge the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), to be called "UNAVEM II", to enable it to carry out new verification tasks arising from the Peace Accords for Angola. The Mission will operate until the general elections planned for 30 November 1992.

In an addendum to his report to the Council, the Secretary-General said UNAVEM II must be given sufficient logistical support -- including a reliable

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For information media--not an official record

communications system and adequate air and ground transportation facilities to enable it to take on its new tasks. He estimated that the total cost of the Mission from June 1991 until November 1992 would be about $132 million -- an expense to be borne by Member countries of the United Nations.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar met today in Lisbon with the Prime Minister of Portugal, Anibal Cavaco Silva. The Secretary-General is scheduled to witness tomorrow the signing of the peace accords between the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)

During the meeting today, he reviewed with the Portuguese Prime Minister international issues of mutual interest. They discussed, in particular, the Angolan agreement as well as the role entrusted to the United Nations as a result of that agreement. They also discussed the Iraq-Kuwait situation, the problem of the Middle East and the question of East Timor.

Talking to the press after the meeting, the Secretary-General once again congratulated the Government of Portugal for its great diplomatic success in bringing about the signing of the "historic agreement", which was important not only for Africa but for the entire world community.

"This agreement will contribute to peace and development in southern Africa", the Secretary-General said, adding, "I also think that the signing of the accords tomorrow will be an example for other parts of Africa in demonstrating the need to find negotiated solutions to political problems." In that context, the Secretary-General cited the example of Mozambique, which also needed a political solution that would allow the Mozambicans to work together, as the Angolans had done, for the development and prosperity of their country.

Regarding the role of the United Nations in Angola, the Secretary-General recalled that UNAVEM I had overseen the withdrawal of Cuban troops, which had now been completed, but that UNAVEM II would be a much more complex operation.

During his three-week trip to Africa and Europe, the Secretary-General has already visited Morocco and Algeria. He has been in Portugal all week, but began his official visit to the country today.

* * *

Iraq has lodged an official protest concerning the Security Council's decision to establish a Compensation Fund to handle claims for war damages caused by Iraq during its invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 27 May, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein said the resolution indirectly gave the Council powers of disposal over the Iraqi people's oil resources. In so doing, he said, the United States and other States would thereby realize another

objective -- "the smashing of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the elimination of its right to control its oil resources and determines its exports of crude oil and petroleum products".

The Iraqi Foreign Minister said further that the Compensation Fund, which would be financed through a percentage of Iraqi oil export revenues, would result in the impovershment of the Iraqi people and future generations for decades to come. He called the decision to establish the Fund "unprecedented" with "no basis in the United Nations Charter or any international convention".

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that the Secretary-General had welcomed the request of Democratic People's Republic of Korea to seek membership in the United Nations.

In a statement, sent through a letter dated 28 May to inform the President of the Security Council of its intention, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said it hoped that the north and the south would occupy one seat at the United Nations with a single state name.

The Government said it would actively strive, on the United Nations rostrum, to see that the problem of Korea's reunification and international issues be resolved "in the interest of the nation and in conformity with the requirements of world peace and security".

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/901
31 May 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General proposes that compensation to be paid by Iraq for damages caused by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait should not exceed 30 per cent of annual value of export of petroleum products from Iraq.

- Secretary-General in Lisbon to witness signing of Angola accords; holds talks with Angolan President, Chairman of Organization of African Unity, Soviet Foreign Minister, United States Secretary of State, UNITA President.

- United Nations Spokesman says efforts to maintain international relief in Ethiopia and surrounding countries are continuing despite difficult situation in country.

- Economic and Social Council authorizes Subcommission on Minorities to use secret ballot on question of alleged human rights violation.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar announced today, through his Spokesman, that the compensation to be paid by Iraq for damages caused by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait -- as stipulated by Security Council resolution 687 (1991) -- should not exceed 30 per cent of the annual value of the exports of petroleum and petroleum products from Iraq.

By the resolution, the Secretary-General was asked to undertake the appropriate consultations so that he could suggest to the Council such a figure as soon as possible.

In his statement, the Secretary-General said that authoritative data necessary for the preparation of the communication to the Council were not readily available. However, given that Iraq derived almost its entire exports earnings from the export of oil and that the unit price and export volume of its oil were monitored by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), it was possible to estimate the size and functioning of its economy in general and of its external trade and payments in particular.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council stated in resolution 687 that Iraq is "liable under international law for any direct loss, damage -- including environmental damage and the depletion of international resources -- or injury to foreign Government, national and corporations as a result of Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait". It further said that the liability was without prejudice to the debts and obligations of Iraq arising prior to 2 August 1990, which would be addressed "through the normal mechanisms".

* * *

The Secretary-General, who is in Lisbon today, held a series of meetings with the Angolan authorities; the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union; and President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Later today, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet the Secretary of State of the United States, James A. Baker III. He was then scheduled to attend the ceremony of the signing of the agreement on Angola, in which he would participate as a witness.

The Secretary-General's first meeting this morning was with the President of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, with whom he discussed the Angola accords and reviewed the details of the United Nations role in its implementation. They also discussed the emergency assistance plan for Angola and the need to promote the economic reconstruction of the country.

The Secretary-General also discussed the United Nations role in the implementation of the agreement at his meeting with the President of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi.

At noon, the Secretary-General met with Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh of the Soviet Union. They reviewed a number of regional questions, including the agreement on Angola, the question of Afghanistan, the Iraq-Kuwait issue and the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-General met with President Museveni of Uganda, with whom he discussed the implementation of the Angolan agreements and cooperation between the United Nations and OAU in the implementation of the Western Sahara plan.

Following his meeting with President dos Santos this morning, the Secretary-General told the press that the importance of the agreement to be signed later today was in its implementation. He expressed the hope that the parties had taken the political decision to fulfil the agreement, since "without an atmosphere of confidence, good faith and political will", the agreement would not be relevant.

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Efforts to maintain international relief in Ethiopia and surrounding countries were continuing despite the difficult situation on the ground, according to the United Nations Spokesman today.

He told correspondents today that even before the most recent political developments in Ethiopia, the relief-supply pipeline had been thin and stocks were dwindling. Some supply routes had now been completely cut off and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had reported that food stocks in camps, particularly cereals, were nearly exhausted. The UNHCR had also reported that 150,000 people were crossing from Ethiopia into the Sudan, creating a further strain on the Government's ability to cope with an already difficult situation in that part of the country.

The Spokesman said Under-Secretary-General James Jonah, currently in Nigeria awaiting the opening of the OAU summit next week, had consulted with Foreign Ministers of the Sudan, Kenya, Djibouti and Somalia -- countries bordering on Ethiopia which are affected by the recent outflows of refugees.

In a related development, it was announced today that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, would fly to Nigeria tomorrow to consult with African leaders, the Secretary-General and other humanitarian organizations on an immediate, consolidated response to the crisis. A UNHCR press release issued today reported that the security situation was particularly precarious in eastern Ethiopia where food convoys have been attacked, hijacked and looted.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has reported that it has sent a convoy of relief supplies to areas in and around the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The agency said a Soviet surgical team had received 300 wounded citizens in the past two days and had operated on almost 250 of them. Despite the high level of tension, ICRC staff had been working continuously to evacuate the wounded to the main hospital in the capital.

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The Economic and Social Council has authorized the use of secret balloting in the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on questions of alleged human rights violations by countries.

The authorization to allow the use of secret balloting, when a majority of the Subcommission's members chose to do so was contained in one of many resolutions and decisions on human rights issues adopted this morning by the Council. The secret ballot is customarily used by United Nations bodies only in elections.

In all, the Council approved 12 resolutions and 35 decisions submitted for its approval by the Commission on Human Rights; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the Council's Second (Social) Committee.

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Among the issues covered by the resolutions were: calls to maintain sanctions against South Africa pending the total dismantlement of the apartheid system; a request to appoint a special rapporteur on violations of human rights by the Government of Iraq; the preparation of a handbook of recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination; and the organization of an expert seminar on indicators to measure achievements in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Other issues concerned torture and child prostitution.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/902
3 June 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General to attend opening session of summit meeting of Organization of African Unity in Nigeria.

- Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) temporarily suspend talks in Venezuela.

- Secretary-General appoints new Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived on Sunday in Nigeria to attend the opening session of the twenty-seventh Assembly of Heads of State or Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). He was scheduled to address the session this afternoon.

His Spokesman told correspondents at Headquarters that earlier today Mr. Perez de Cuellar had chaired an inter-agency meeting on the situation in Ethiopia, particularly regarding that country's emergency humanitarian needs.

The Secretary-General had then met with Nelson Mandela, Vice-President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), with whom he discussed the situation in South Africa and United Nations sanctions against that country.

He had also met with the Secretary-General of OAU for an exchange of views on developments in Ethiopia, the question of Western Sahara and the peace agreement in Angola.

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that the negotiating commissions of the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), with the participation of the

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General's Personal Representative, Alvaro de Soto, had met from 25 May to 2 June in Venezuela. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding had also participated, conducting talks on cease-fire arrangements.

The spokesman said the two sides had agreed on a recess of direct talks to allow internal consultations of each party, as well as with other political entities, as provided for in the Geneva Agreement. Direct talks were expected to resume towards the end of the second week of June, he said.

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The Secretary-General today appointed John Richard Foran as Acting Under-Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administration and Management. Mr. Foran, a national of Canada, has been Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Office of General Services since 1987. He succeeds Martti Ahtisaari of Finland who is returning to the Foreign Service of his country.

Mr. Foran's appointment will take effect on 1 July. From 1 June to 1 July, he will be officer-in-charge of the Department of Administration and Management.

Mr. Foran has served with the United Nations since 1965 when he joined the Organization as a recruitment officer in the Office of Personnel Services. In the last several years, he has held a number of positions simultaneously with his post of Assistant Secretary-General in charge of General Services. Most recently, he has been the designated official responsible for coordinating the return of property from Iraq to Kuwait in accordance with Security Council resolution 686 (1991).

Mr. Foran has also served as the Secretary-General's representative for the Investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund since 1982; Member of the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee of the United Nations International School since 1987; Chairman of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions from 1990; Chairman of the Appointment and Promotion Board from 1989 to 1991; Acting Secretary, Administrative Committee on Coordination and Chairman of the Organizational Committee from 1988 to 1990; and Chairman of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions from 1987 to 1990.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/903
4 June 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General stresses need for "prompt concerted international action" to avert further aggravation of "serious humanitarian problem" in Ethiopia and its impact on neighbouring States.

- Secretary-General, in Nigeria, meets with Foreign Ministers of Algeria and Cyprus, and President of Sudan.

- Office of United Nations Disaster Relief Coordination (UNDRO) reports shortfall of over $340 million for United Nations humanitarian operation in Persian Gulf.

- Secretary-General, in message on occasion of World Environment Day, warns against effects of climate change.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today through his spokesman that recent developments in and relating to Ethiopia had underscored the need for "prompt concerted international action" to avert further aggravation of the serious humanitarian problem prevailing in the country and its impact on the neighbouring States, namely Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan.

The Secretary-General said he was sending an inter-agency team immediately to Ethiopia and its neighbouring countries in order to access requirements for humanitarian assistance and accelerate its mobilization and distribution.

In reply to questions by correspondents, the Spokesman said United Nations relief operations were continuing in spite of the "extremely difficult situation" in Ethiopia. Three local employees of the World Food Programme (WFP) had been abducted, and two of them killed, he said. An explosion that rocked Addis Ababa today had destroyed windows of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and 28 homes of staff members of the Commission, he added.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General, who is in the second week of his three-week visit to Europe and Africa, had a series of appointments today in Abuja, Nigeria, with Heads of State and Government and other high-level officials attending the twenty-seventh summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

He met this morning with the Foreign Minister of Algeria, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, with whom he discussed the implementation of the plan for Western Sahara, the recently signed agreement on Angola as well as other regional African problems.

The Secretary-General then discussed the question of Cyprus with Foreign Minister George Iacovou of Cyprus. He also met with the President of the Sudan, Omer Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, with whom he discussed the impact of the situation in Ethiopia on the Sudan, particularly on its eastern province.

This afternoon, the Secretary-General met with the Prime Minister of Senegal, Habib Thiam, with whom he discussed African economic requirements, Western Sahara, the Angolan peace accords and local conflicts in Africa, including the differences between Mauritania and Senegal.

He then met with Dawit Yohannes, member of the Supreme Council of the Eritrean People's Revolutionary Democratic Front and head of the delegation of Ethiopia to the summit. Mr. Yohannes briefed the Secretary-General on the situation in Ethiopia and they also discussed the humanitarian needs of that country.

The Secretary-General then met with Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Mr. Arafat briefed the Secretary-General on the latest Israeli raids against PLO bases in Lebanon and they discussed the aftermath of the Persian Gulf crisis and the situation in the Near East.

The Secretary-General was also scheduled to meet later with the President of Kenya, Daniel T. arap Moi.

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The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) reported today that there is a current shortfall of over $340 million for the United Nations humanitarian operation in the Persian Gulf. The agency said the funding deficit was having a critical impact on the distribution of food to Iraqi refugees and the provision of United Nations security guards to oversee their safe return home.

* * *

The Secretary-General has warned against the effects of climate change -- the theme of this year's World Environment Day, which is to be celebrated at Headquarters tomorrow.

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In a message on occasion of the Day, he urged the Governments and peoples of the world to act urgently and responsibly to preserve and protect the natural environment. He said the effects of a global warming that would destroy the balance of nature would be truly disastrous.

Outlining the consequences of global warming, he said increased sea levels resulting from melting polar ice caps would inundate low-lying coastal areas and obliterate entire island States; rainfall patterns would be altered, increasing the frequency of floods and drought; famine levels would be pushed even higher than the already crisis proportions in sub-Saharan Africa; and tropical storms, such as the recent tragedy of Bangladesh, might become more frequent and more severe.

The Secretary-General went on to say that despite uncertainty as to the rate of global warming, decisive precautionary measures were urgently needed. The ongoing negotiations on a framework convention on climate change should contain specific commitments for stabilizing and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency and conserving forests, he said.

He stressed that these commitments would have to be underpinned by a readiness on the part of industrialized countries to transfer additional financial resources and appropriate technology to developing countries to enable them to meet their commitments under the convention.

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Lebanon has reiterated its call to the Security Council to take serious action to end Israeli attacks on its territory.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Lebanon's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Khalil Makkawi, said the latest raid, committed yesterday, resulted in three deaths, seven injuries and extensive property damage. He called on the Council to implement a 1978 resolution which calls on Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon. His Government condemned the attack, calling it "a blatant act of defiance of international law".

In another development, Syria has informed the United Nations of increased Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Syria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dia-Allah El-Fattal, said the number of Israeli settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights now exceeded 12,400. He also said Israel was building new settlements where it was moving recent immigrants.

The Syrian Ambassador said the action was not only in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention and various Security Council resolutions, but was also impeding peace efforts. He called on the United Nations to take the necessary measures to make Israel comply with international law.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/904
5 June 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General concludes four-day stay in Abuja for OAU summit; talks to press about Ethiopia, Lebanon and Western Sahara before leaving for official visit to Sierra Leone.

- Special Committee investigating Israeli practices in occupied territories concludes field mission to Middle East.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar wound up his four-day stay in Abuja, Nigeria, today, after attending the twenty-seventh Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit and meeting with several Heads of State and Government and other dignitaries. He left early in the afternoon for Freetown on a two-day official visit to Sierra Leone.

Before leaving Nigeria, the Secretary-General met with the Foreign Minister of Mauritania, Hasni Ould Didi, with whom he discussed African regional questions, in particular the question of Western Sahara, and the Secretary-General briefed him on the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

The Secretary-General also met with the Prime Minister of Somalia, Mohamed Hawadle Madar, and discussed with him the humanitarian relief effort in that country and the refugee situation.

During a meeting with the President of Nigeria, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, the Secretary-General discussed with him the OAU summit and issues of mutual interest to the United Nations and the OAU, including the question of Western Sahara.

At a meeting with President Sam Nujoma of Namibia, the Secretary-General reviewed with him the role of the United Nations in Namibia, the economic situation of the country and developments in South Africa.

Speaking to the press before leaving Abuja today, the Secretary-General was asked about the aggravation of the situation in Ethiopia and whether he

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For information media—not an official record

was willing to mediate in the conflict. The Secretary-General said that, on the humanitarian level, he was very concerned for the civilian population in Ethiopia and noted that he had just launched an appeal to help in a coordinated and efficient way to alleviate the suffering of the Ethiopian people and to assist neighbouring countries, namely, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and the Sudan. He added that when in Geneva next week, he would coordinate, at a high level, with United Nations agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and send a mission to the region.

On the political level, the Secretary-General noted that he had not been in touch, while in Abuja, with the Eritreans; he had only met with an official of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. At any rate, he said, any involvement of the United Nations would require authorization from the General Assembly or the Security Council.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the Secretary-General said he had yesterday made a statement deploring the violation of the territorial integrity of Lebanon and expressing his concern and regret at the attacks. He had also immediately contacted his advisers in New York and was told that the Lebanese Government had asked for an urgent meeting of the Security Council. He sincerely hoped, said the Secretary-General, that the situation would calm down and that no further attacks occurred in southern Lebanon.

Asked about the Western Sahara referendum, the Secretary-General said the United Nations had embarked on the task of identification of the Saharan people. "I have appointed a very distinguished African", he said, "Macaire Pedanou, to carry out that task. I have also appointed Armand Roy, a Canadian, to head the force".

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The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories today concluded its two-week field mission to Damascus, Amman and Cairo.

Established by the General Assembly in December 1968, the Special Committee is mandated to investigate Israeli practices and to report back through the Secretary-General to the Assembly. It has been denied access by Israel to the territories and relies therefore on Israeli press reports and on oral evidence by persons who have first-hand knowledge of the situation in those territories.

During its fact-finding mission, the Special Committee heard some 40 witnesses with first-hand experience about the situation in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. All the witnesses interviewed testified that the human rights situation in the occupied territories, already critical since the beginning of the uprising and its repression, had further deteriorated in recent months. The outbreak of the Gulf crisis and the ensuing war was said to have led to increasingly repressive policies and practices by the occupying Power.

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The prolonged and continuous curfews imposed upon the occupied territories during the Gulf war, for periods which in certain areas extended to six weeks, had had, according to many testimonies, a dramatic impact on all aspects of life.

In addition, witnesses said, increasingly restrictive regulations for the issuance of identification cards had led to a situation in which tens of thousands of Palestinian workers were prevented from continuing their employment inside Israel. These new developments were said to considerably add to the vulnerability of a population living in a state of prolonged physical and psychological stress and already severely affected by unemployment and a disastrous economic situation. In that regard, it was said that most of the Palestinian and other Arab population in the occupied territories was living below the poverty line and merely surviving.

Another preoccupying factor mentioned by several witnesses was the new impetus given by the Israeli authorities to their annexation and settlement policy. They drew attention to the recent creation of several new settlements, in particular in the Jerusalem area, and the declared intention to establish further settlements in the near future, as well as the measures taken to facilitate the immigration to Israel and the settlement in the occupied territories of Jews from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

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United Nations

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General presents to Security Council guidelines to ensure implementation of arms embargo against Iraq.

- Secretary-General meets with President of Sierra Leone during two-day visit to country.

- Secretary-General recommends to Security Council extension of mandate of peace-keeping force in Cyprus, which he says is facing "chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis".

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has presented to the Security Council, following consultations with appropriate Governments, a set of guidelines to ensure the implementation of the arms embargo against Iraq, including a comprehensive list of the military material to be prohibited.

The list, contained in the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council of 2 June, includes the categories of arms that had been barred from sale to Iraq, under Security Council resolution 661, including conventional arms, biological weapons, all nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapons-usable material, all ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres, and any spare parts and components from which to make any of the weapons.

The Secretary-General was asked by the Council's cease-fire resolution of 3 April to provide it with such information.

In his report to the Council, the Secretary-General recommended that its Sanctions Committee monitor the arms embargo and report to the Council every three months.

The Council's embargo prohibits all research, development and facilities for manufacturing or repairing weapons and forbid Iraq from acquiring the appropriate technology and personnel relating to the design, development, manufacture, use, or maintenance of such weapons.

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For information media—not an official record

In addition, the Secretary-General is recommending that international organizations take appropriate steps to assist in ensuring full compliance with the arms embargo, including providing the Committee with any relevant information they may come to their attention.

He also recommended that countries cooperate with each other bilaterally or within the framework of existing regional arrangements to make the arms embargo against Iraq airtight and that they report to him within 45 days on the measures they have instituted to ensure that no weapons or dual-purpose items were exported to Iraq.

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The Secretary-General is currently on a two-day official visit to Sierra Leone.

This morning in Freetown, he met with President Joseph S. Momoh of Sierra Leone with whom he discussed the country's economic situation. The President praised the constructive role of the United Nations in Sierra Leone. They also discussed regional security issues, including the situation in Liberia and the problem of the flow of Liberian refugees into Sierra Leone. President Momoh then briefed the Secretary-General on his country's democratization process and the drafting of the new constitution.

The Secretary-General is scheduled to meet the press in Freetown before leaving for Conakry on a three-day official visit to Guinea.

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The Secretary-General has recommended to the Security Council that the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) be extended for another six months, until 15 December.

In his report to the Security Council of 31 May, the Secretary-General said he had no doubt that the continued presence of the Force on the island remained "indispensable" to efforts to return the country to normal conditions.

He stated that UNFICYP was facing "a chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis", which imposed a most unfair burden on the troop-contributing countries. A previous recommendation to finance the operation from assessed contributions was currently being examined, he said.

According to the report, the cost of maintaining UNFICYP for the next six months is estimated at $15.4 million.

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